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COAST GUARD MOBILE MARINE RADIO

Canadian Coast Guard radio is mobile —and on the road...

A VHF and HF Coast Guard radio station has been assembled in a 19-foot GMC van. The new unit, built in 1984 and operated by the Telecommunications and Electronics Branch (Western Region), Canadian Coast Guard, provides a better link between land and marine rescue agencies in a variety of emergency situations.

The Mobile Marine Radio Station's radio equipment includes two 76-channel VHF marine transceivers and a tuneable VHF transceiver covering the 138-174 Mhz band for using emergency frequencies. It also carries a VHF marine direction finding set, General Radio Service (Citizens Band), aeronautical transceiver and a VHF scanning receiver.

To complement long-range capability, the unit is equipped with a High Frequency Single Sideband (HF SSB) transceiver as well.

Other equipment includes suitable high gain whip antennae and an 18-foot vertical whip for HF operations. In areas of poor VHF operations, a YAGI (directional-type) antenna is used to "beam" the signal in the desired direction. The portable antennae are stored in the van until required.

The Coast Guard Mobile Marine Radio unit is completely self-contained and independent. Its radio equipment and inside lighting can be powered by an internal 117-volt A/C battery system or by a 2000-watt portable generator.

The needs of the two person crew are supplied by a five-gallon fresh water storage tank, propane stove, sink and refrigerator. There is a small propane furnace on board. The van is kept fully stocked and "at the ready" at all times.

The vehicle is designed to respond to marine-oriented disasters such as landslides, floods, oil spills and fires where maritime, aeronautical and land-based rescue forces are involved. It can communicate with Coast Guard, other vessels, aircraft and rescue groups such as police, fire departments and ambulance services. Because of its mobility, the unit is able to respond to the disaster, establish a communications command post, relay messages between rescue groups and help coordinate and speed rescue efforts.

The station can also communicate with the Rescue Coordination Centre in Victoria on a working frequency or through the nearest Coast Guard Radio Station.

When not involved in priority duties, the unit is available for general communications training within the Canadian Coast Guard and auxiliary groups. It is also used for marine safety communications at local events, such as bathtub races and regattas, and international events, such as the Swiftsure yacht race.

Whenever possible, Canadian Coast Guard Telecommunications and Electronics Branch will put the Mobile Marine Radio unit on display or arrange participation in your marine activity or event. For further information, please call the Canadian Coast Guard, North Vancouver, (604) 984-3878.

FREQUENCIES USED IN MARITIME MOBILE SERVICE

PURPOSE	SHIP	COAST	VHF
Distress, Urgency, Safety, and Calling	156.8 MHz 2182 kHz 500 kHz	156.8 MHz 2182 kHz 500 kHz	16
Continuous Weather, Traffic List & Notships		*161.65 *162.55 *162.40 **2054 kHz	21B WX1 WX2
Ship & Coast Guard Public Correspondence	157.10 157.3 157.225 2054 kHz 2340 kHz	157.10 161.9 161.825 2054 kHz 2458 kHz	22A 26 84

*continuous broadcast
**broadcast at scheduled times